

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A platen member for use in a ~~C-frame~~ press assembly, said platen member comprising:

a platen column having a central aperture and defining a column axial length, said ~~tube~~ platen column defining a press axis;

a platen body having a base portion and at least one web portion,

wherein said at least one web portion is not rigidly connected with said platen column along the column axial length, and wherein said at least one web portion is connected to said platen column only through said base portion ~~so that a total compression load from a tie rod is carried only by the platen column~~ to thereby reduce the platen column stiffness.

2. (original) The platen member according to claim 1, wherein said at least one web portion comprises at least one lateral stiffener and at least one transverse web member disposed transverse to said at least one lateral stiffener, said lateral stiffener and said transverse web member being spaced from said platen column.

3. (original) The platen member according to claim 1, wherein said platen column is longitudinally aligned with a compression column abutting said base portion.

4. (original) The platen member according to claim 3, wherein said platen column is disposed to receive a compression force from a nut member threadingly engaging a tie rod, said web portion being isolated from said compression force.

5. (original) The platen member according to claim 1, wherein said web portion comprises a pair of parallel walls extending parallel to said press axis.

6. (original) The platen member according to claim 1, wherein said web portion comprises at least four walls extending above said base portion along a direction parallel to said press axis.

7. (original) The platen member according to claim 1, wherein said platen column is integrally formed with said base portion.

8. (original) The platen member according to claim 1, wherein said platen column is separately formed with respect to said base portion.

9. (currently amended) The platen member according to claim 1, wherein said platen column is not connected with said ~~platen~~ web portion.

10. (currently amended) A platen assembly for a press comprising:
a hollow platen column through which a tie rod is adapted to pass;
a platen main body including a base press portion and a plurality of platen webs integral with said base press portion, said platen webs being remote from said platen column such that said platen webs do not connect directly with said platen column,

wherein said platen column is adapted to be connected in series with said tie rod to thereby reduce the platen column stiffness, and wherein said platen webs are connected to said platen column only through said base portion.

11. (original) The platen assembly according to claim 10, wherein said at least one platen web comprises at least one lateral stiffener and at least one transverse web member disposed transverse to said at least one lateral stiffener, said lateral stiffener and said transverse web member being spaced from said platen column.

12. (original) The platen assembly according to claim 10, wherein said platen column is longitudinally aligned with a compression column abutting said platen main body.

13. (original) The platen assembly according to claim 12, wherein said platen column is disposed to receive a compression force from a nut member threadingly engaging said tie rod, said platen web being isolated from said compression force.

14. (previously presented) The platen member according to claim 1, wherein a lower end of said at least one web portion and a lower end of said platen column are supported by said base portion.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) The platen member according to claim 10, wherein a lower end of said ~~at least one web portion~~ platen webs and a lower end of said platen column are supported by said base portion.

17. (canceled)